



International Shinkendo Federation



Aikibujutsu Tanren Kenkyukai



Kokusai Toyama Ryu Renmei

# News from Honbu

## ISF/AB/KTRR

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Issue 0009



### Happy Holidays from Honbu

Do elves practice Santa-giri? At Honbu, they do. The martial elves are celebrating their first issue of the Honbu newsletter, something we hope will become a regular occurrence.

We'll update you on the latest Honbu happenings, share thoughts from Obata Kaiso and our instructors/ students worldwide, and if you've never visited us here in Los Angeles, give you an idea of what the dojo looks like and who we are!

Since we're just reviving the newsletter, we'd like to hear from you. Please send any comments/suggestions by email to [jimbo@wongstein.com](mailto:jimbo@wongstein.com). We would also like to do profiles on / get articles from instructors and students from our branch dojos, so please send digital pictures, branch/instructor bios, and/or articles to the same address.

With that, I'll leave you in the hands of more capable martial artists and writers. Enjoy, and a very Happy Holidays from all of us here at Honbu.

*-James Huang has been a student since 1997 and lives in Burbank, CA*



*Obata Sensei and Mrs. Sensei at work in Honbu, preparing before class. Congratulations to Obata Sensei for the official trademark registration of Toyama-Ryu®*



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# Sensei's Tokushu



I am pleased to announce that our three organizations - the International Shinkendo Foundation, Aikibujutsu, and Kokusai Toyama Ryu Renmei continue to grow as we reach the year 2003. I also have future expansion plans for Japan. This makes it more important for us to share information among our branch dojos worldwide. Therefore as part of this effort I have asked our Honbu members to make this newsletter available to all of our students and instructors, and I would like you all to contribute something - ideas or maybe articles.

I would like you to keep in mind some important dates coming up in the new year. [Ed: *The website shinkendo.com also lists important dates.*] In black are Honbu-related dates. The dates you see in red are my upcoming travel dates to branch dojos. As you can see, we now have a presence in New Zealand as well.

The dates in blue I would like all to observe. (Dates for Kan Geiko and Shochu Geiko are of course flexible for branch dojos, but if you can match these dates or even join us, that will also be good.)

It is a Japanese martial arts tradition to practice in the beginning of the year - Kan Geiko or winter practice. We will have our Kan Geiko in mid-January. The idea is to train in the extremes of weather to harden and temper ourselves.

## Important dates:

- Jan 4** Honbu demonstration in Little Tokyo
- Jan 15** Honbu 1 year in LA location
- Jan 13-18** Kan Geiko (winter practice)
- April 2-7** Iowa
- April 15-23** New Zealand
- May 10** Shinkendo Sosetsu Kinenbi
- Aug 11-16** Shochu Geiko (summer practice)
- October 20** Kaiso Shinkendo Tanjobi (Sensei's birthday)

Therefore at Honbu we will also have Shochu Geiko, summer training in mid-August. I encourage other branches to do the same.

Two special occasions that will be part of the official calendar are May 10, *Shinkendo Sosetsu Kinenbi* - the day that Shinkendo started, and October 20, *Kaiso Shinkendo Tanjobi* - the founder of Shinkendo's birthday (mine). Please celebrate - if you enjoy a party and maybe Shinkendo demonstration on these days, will be good!

Also, I would like to mention that I have recently been awarded Toyama Ryu® as an officially registered trademark in the USA. Work on furthering Toyama Ryu®, which I have taught for many years, will be a personal focus of mine for the new year.

Please safely enjoy the holidays and don't forget your training!

-Obata Toshishiro

Keeping the “News From Honbu” Alive - *written by Nathan Scott*

In previous years, we had encouraged our larger branch dojo to alternate taking responsibility for the production of our quarterly Federation newsletter. The Federations were smaller, and resources and availability of time were harder to ensure on a consistent basis. The production schedule of the newsletter understandably suffered as a result.

Obata Kaiso has expressed to me on many occasions how he wished that Honbu dojo members would take more responsibility for dojo and Federation tasks. Being accepted as a direct student of Kaiso at the World Headquarters affords the serious student a great opportunity, so assisting him in areas such as this should logically be embraced with a feeling of appreciation for the chance to learn directly under the founder at his own school.

The Honbu dojo itself is now more than doubled in size from that of its previous location in Hollywood, and the Federations that it governs also continue to grow. The Honbu exists in part to support the efforts of the branch dojo, so it would not be inaccurate to say that it is the responsibility of our Honbu members to seek ways in which



they can assist Kaiso with these responsibilities.

Recently, I've been happy to find several students approaching to ask how they can contribute to the dojo. The production (and hopefully continued production!) of this newsletter is the result of discussions such as this, and I hope the other students and Federation members will offer their support by writing submissions for future issues.

Without submissions from our members, the newsletter will not be very long, and will not provide the other members with the opportunity to get to know you. In this regard, we all need to contribute our appropriate part, as well as encourage our classmates and students to submit their experiences and thoughts. If we all contribute - we all benefit.

Many students, both current and past, have asked me at some time or another if we could organize some kind of event or training, or create some kind of product or policy.

*(continued on next page)*



*Ryu-sui practice*



*David (left) and Istvan practice kasumi blocking (ask David about 'The Lion King' if you meet him!)*



*Saito-san coaches Steve's follow-through in sanbon-kumite*

# Instructor Corner (cont'd)

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*(cont'd from previous page)*

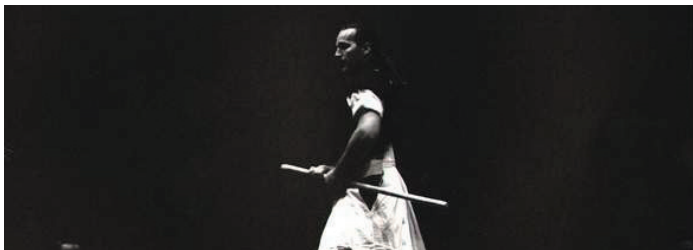
In the last few years, my response has been “I can’t do it myself anymore, but I’ll be happy to support your efforts if you’d be willing to undertake the project yourself”. More times than not such proposals ended up being forgotten or aborted as a result.

My personal time for undertaking such projects has become limited in recent years, which I understand is a typical by-product of getting older. I barely have time to maintain my current Federation and dojo responsibilities, and still make it to the dojo during the week and lead training on Saturday. Everyone must take some initiative to improve our training environment and affect desired changes, so I’m happy to see that some of these recent proposals and suggestions are starting to be attended to.

So thanks to all of you who are beginning to help out. The arts we study are “human” art forms, and as such, they can only be as significant and interesting as we make them!

Happy Holidays and good luck to everyone with their training.

*~ Nathan Scott is an instructor at the Honbu dojo and Shibuchō of Tsuki Kage dojo in Hermosa Beach, CA.*



*Sang, a.k.a. 'Mr. Lee', shows no mercy in sanbon-kumite B*



*Vicky shows the guys a thing or two about Toyama-ryu.*



*Peter-sensei and Mrs. Obata-sensei*



*Jonathan, aerospace engineer by day...*

## From the Ranks

"Confused Newbie" Part I  
-written by Michael Shu

In the middle of February 2002 (gee, so long ago), I by chance came across the Shinkendo website and became extremely interested in taking a look at this school of Japanese swordsmanship which differed from the usual Kendo or Iaido. Me being a wannabe samurai, I gave the dojo a call around noon one day and got the dreaded answering machine. I decided to just visit the dojo during class time and headed over to the Hollywood location.

I was extremely confused when I could only find a pile of rubble where the dojo was supposed to be. Thinking this was just a fib by Mapquest®, I decided to visit another day since the Hollywood traffic was beginning to boggle my mind. One night I called the dojo again and left a message. After a day at school, I came home to find a message left swiftly by Nathan Scott Sensei telling me to contact the dojo during class times. I did so and Sammy Sensei answered the phone in his quick and serious tone of voice and told me that I can visit the dojo now, what I forgot to ask was the correct location of the new dojo. So I drove to Hollywood once again from my apartment in Chinatown only to find rubble once again.

A few days and a couple of phone calls later I found out that the dojo moved to just a few



blocks south of my apartment in Little Tokyo! So finally I drove over there in the middle of Shinkendo class and headed to the third floor of the shopping center only to find myself lost once again. I was almost ready to give up when I saw the "karate" sign with a mean looking dude doing a "karate-chop".

Heading in that direction, I heard the faint sounds of kiai's and kept on going straight. When I saw bathroom signs I guessed that I had gone a bit too far and entered the mysterious and ominous "Restricted" area very cautiously. There in the middle of a huge warehouse-like room was the dojo. The students swinging around their long wooden sticks told me I was in the right place. Luckily Obata Sensei was there that day so I was able to see him teach personally.

I had only read up a little about Sensei before visiting the class so I didn't realize how much of an honor it was to learn from him until later. I was told it would be best to start at the beginning of the next month. So after I purchased my gi and received my cotton hakama with that annoying indigo dye that ran all the time, I was on my way to become... an even more confused wannabe samurai.

See why, on the next edition of this newsletter!!!

If I don't get censored that is :(  
[Ed: Bribery helps, Michael...]

~Michael Shu is a Shinkendo student at Honbu Dojo

## Meet the Dojo



Meet Steve, LAUSD teacher, long-time aikido and shinkendo student, and practically uchi-deshi at Honbu!

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